

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07  
TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /066 W  
-----051941Z 080699 /65

R 051540Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0432  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
USMISSION USNATO  
SECDEF WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 0078

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, UR, AU  
SUBJ: AUSTRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER TERMS STATE TREATY MISSILE BANN  
"OBSOLETE"

REF: A) VIENNA 9317 NOTAL  
B) VIENNA 9508 NOTAL C) VIENNA 8584  
NOTAL

1. VIENNA PAPERS JANUARY 5 QUOTE DEFENSE MINISTER LUTGENDORF  
AS SAYING IN INTERVIEW IN WEST GERMAN "DIE WELT" JANUARY 4  
THAT AUSTRIAN STATE TREATY ARTICLE 13 BAN ON MISSILES IS  
"OBSOLETE" AS IT PERTAINS TO AUSTRIAN ACQUISITION OF DEFENSE  
MISSILES. LUTGENDORF IS ALSO QUOTED AS CALLING FOR PURCHASE  
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OF INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT AND INCREASE IN DEFENSE BUDGET.

2. WE HAVE NOT SEEN TEXT OF INTERVIEW; HOWEVER "DIE PRESSE"  
QUOTES LUTGENDORF AS FOLLOWS: "...I AM OF THE OPINION THAT,  
SINCE AUSTRIA IS A NEUTRAL COUNTRY WILL ALWAYS PURSUE ITS  
DEFENSE POLICY AS A DEFENSE POLICY, WE MUST NOT BE  
DENIED THE RIGHT TO POSSESS ARMS SYTEMS WHICH, THOUGH

OPERATED AS MISSILES, ARE ONLY DEFENSEIVE IN NATURE OWING TO THEIR RANGE." PAPERS ALSO INDICATED LUTGENDORF EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT, IDEALLY, AUSTRIAN DEFENSE SHOULD RECEIVE SEVEN PERCENT OF BUDGET OUTLAYS (VS. PRESENT 3.8 PERCENT). "ARBEITER ZEITUNG" IN ADDITION QUOTES HIM AS HAVING SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH AUSTRIA WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO SPEAK OF GENUINE AIR DEFENSE, "WE HAVE TO HAVE A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF INTERCEPTORS. I CONSIDER IT ABSOLUTELY INDESPENSIBLE FOR US TO MAINTAIN A KIND OF NEUTRALITY POLICY."

3. COMMUNIST "VOLKSTIMME" TERMED LUTGENDORF'S STATEMENTS "ATTACK AGAINST STATE TREATY\*" IN FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE AND COMMENTED EDITORIALY THAT LUTGENDORF "WANTS TO BRUSH ASIDE PROVISIONS BANNING MISSILES, WHICH IS TANTAMOUNT TO SHOOTING HOLES IN THE STATE TREATY AND THUS INTO ONE OF THE PILLARS ON WHICH THE SECOND REPUBLIC RESTS."

4. COMMENT. IN VIEW OF SOVIET EMBASSY REACTION TO SIMILAR STATEMENTS BY LESSER AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS IN PAST (REF B), WE ANTICIPATE THAT, AT LEAST, SOVIETS WILL SEEK MFA CLARIFICATION OF AUSTRIAN POSITION ON PARTICLE 13 IN LIGHT OF DEFENSE MINISTER'S STATEMENT.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOA IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE DECISION IN PRINCIPLE ON JANUARY 18 WHETHER AUSTRIA SHOULD ACQUIRE INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT. LUTGENDORF'S INTERVIEW IN WEST GERMAN PAPER CAN THEREFOER BE READ AS EFFORT TO GENRATE TIMELY PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON DEFENSE ISSUES AND THEREBY TO CONFIDENTIAL

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INFLUENCE JANUARY 18 DECISION. THREE POINTS RAISED BY LUTGENDORF-INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT, MISSILES, AND MONEY- ARE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF SAME COMPLEX ISSUE OF DUPDATING INTERPRETATION OF ARTICLE 13.

6. WE HAVE REVIEWED OUT MOST RECENT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON ARTICLE 13 ISSUE (REF C) AND CONSIDER THEM STILL APPLICABLE. END COMMENT.BUCHANAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, MPOL, UR, AU, (LUETGENDORF, KARL FERDINAND)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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